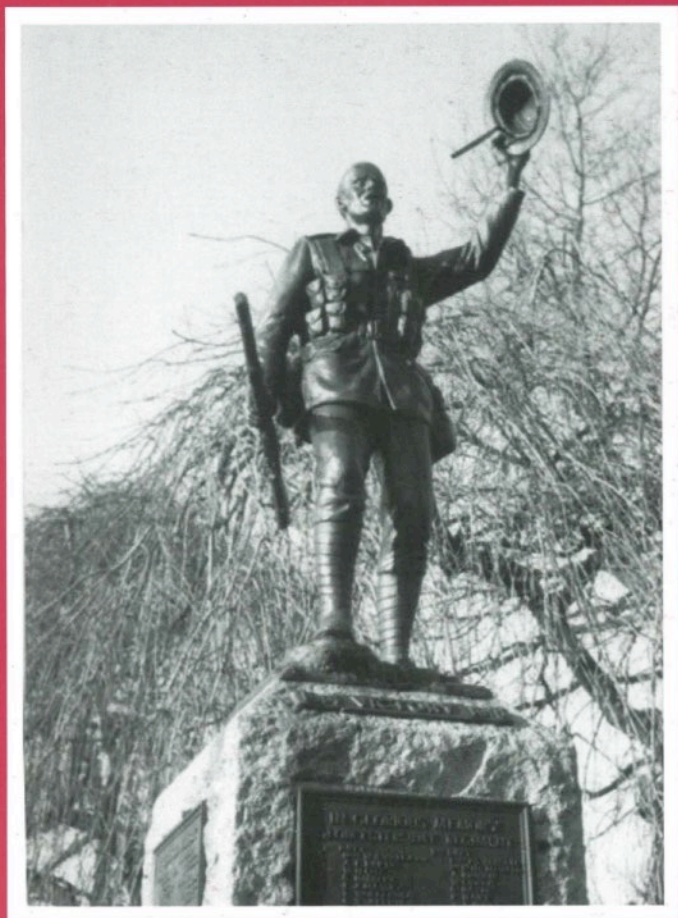


BRISTOL 1914-1919



JOHN LYES

THE BRISTOL BRANCH OF THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION LOCAL HISTORY PAMPHLETS

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John Lyes is the author of '*A Strong Smell of Brimstone*': *The Attorneys and Solicitors of Bristol 1740-1840* and *Bristol 1901-1913* (nos. 98 and 104 in this series).

The publication of a pamphlet by the Bristol Branch of the Historical Association does not necessarily imply the Branch's approval of the opinions expressed in it.

The Historical Association is a national body which seeks to encourage interest in all forms of history. Further details about membership and its activities can be obtained from the Secretary, The Historical Association, 59A Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4JH.

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A further compilation of events in Bristol is offered as a continuation to *Bristol 1901-1913*. Again, the choice has to be that of the compiler and may well not include matters that the reader considers to be important.

The period is dominated by the Great War and the author is the first to recognise that it does not reflect the war's effect upon individuals. Nevertheless, it is suggested that the illustration on the front cover portrays the cheerful enthusiasm with which numbers of young men joined up. At the same time the panels on the side of the memorial that contain the names of some 200 men reflect the suffering that the conflict caused to the men who died and those who mourned them.

Other affairs concerned the citizens. The Corporation was seeking to extend its boundaries and to provide municipal housing and new civic buildings. Air transport was burgeoning, the University was about to grow but the fear of unemployment, although removed during the war, started to reappear after the armistice.

As ever, many of the events referred to are illustrated in Reece Winstone's *Bristol As It Was 1913-1921*. The period is more fully covered in *Bristol in the Great War* by Wells and Stone, Volume Two of *At the Port of Bristol* by W.G. Neale and *The Forgotten Front* by James Belsey.

1914

In January the Historical Association held its 8th annual meeting in Bristol and heard an address on 'The Study of History and the Working Man' by Professor G.H. Lennard. The delegates witnessed the dedication of a window at St. Mary Redcliffe commemorating notable historic personages of the city in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

In the same month the 18th annual dinner of the Kingswood Fire Brigade heard that although the Urban District Council had to look after their finances carefully, they had nevertheless provided new uniforms in the past year. Chief Officer Bell reported that the manual fire engine was out of date and that the brigade would like a motor engine, which would be easier to maintain than a steam engine.

In the middle of the month Mr. H. Samuel, a jeweller, was fined five shillings for opening his Wine Street shop after 1 p.m. on an early closing day.

At the beginning of February Miss Janet Stancombe Wills opened the Winterstoke Memorial Wing at Bristol Grammar School. The building contained a science and art wing and was funded by a donation of £10,000 made by Miss Wills. It was designed by Gough and Gough and built by George Humphreys and Son.

The February meeting of the Governors of Bristol Royal Infirmary heard some criticism of the treatment of working class patients and there was an unsuccessful attempt to have working class representation on the management body.

At the end of February there was a difference of opinion between the Sanitary Committee and the King Edward VII Memorial Committee. The former, who had taken over the responsibility of managing the memorial proposed that the fountain should play from 2 to 6 p.m. during the summer period whereas the latter felt that it should operate continuously except during frosty weather.

At the beginning of March the management of Bristol Tramways motor construction works at Brislington issued new working rules to their employees, *inter alia* altering the hours of working. The rules were handed out at mid-day and the employees were required to sign them by 5 p.m. The majority refused to sign them and were locked out on the following day. The management received a delegation from the workforce but refused to discuss the matter further. The following month a meeting of trade union delegates voted to withdraw all members in the employ of Bristol Tramways Company. In May James Yeadon, a striker, was bound over for an assault; he was trying to prevent a strike-breaker from entering the works.

A week later a deputation of some 20 ladies led by Miss Hazell, the organiser of the Bristol branch of the Women's Social and Political Union, interviewed the Bishop to ascertain his views on the forcible feeding of imprisoned suffragettes. He expressed the opinion that when violent deeds were done and the perpetrator was caught then that person should accept the allotted penalty; he opined that the woman caused the forcible feeding by forcing the authorities to prevent her from committing suicide. The meeting lasted for two hours and several of the ladies told the Bishop that they were not satisfied with his views; he replied that he did not expect that they would be.

Francis Fox died on 16 March aged 95. He was the Chief Engineer of the London and Exeter Railway that achieved notable records in quick running with its broad gauge trains. He was responsible for planning the joint station at Temple Meads.

During the last week of March Harry Houdini appeared at the Empire Theatre. He freed himself after being locked in a water torture cell whilst standing on his head with his ankles clamped and locked in the centre of a massive cover.

At the end of the month the Council received a report of the Watch Committee who had been considering applying to the Local Government Board for an order imposing a speed limit of 10 mph throughout the city. The committee recommended that no such application should be made and that the police should rely on their general powers to prevent dangerous driving. The Council accepted the recommendation.

The Bishop of Bristol, Dr. Forrest Browne, who was retiring, preached his last sermon at the Cathedral at the end of March.

On 4 April Bristol Choral Society, comprising 500 voices, gave a performance of *Parsifal* to a packed audience at the Colston Hall.

The following week Mr. B.C. Hacks, the world famous aviator using two Blériot monoplanes, gave a flying display at Buffalo Bill's Field, Horfield.

In April the new Parish Hall at St. Anne's, Oldland, was opened. The building was designed by Bligh Bond and constructed by Adams & Jefferies.

At the beginning of May it was announced that the new Bishop of Bristol would be Rev. George Nickson, Suffragan Bishop of Jarrow. The *Times* reported that 'The new Bishop combines a hearty appreciation of the Church of England's historic position with a strong hold of evangelical principles'. The retiring Bishop declined the full pension to which he was entitled, thus enhancing his successor's income. The new Bishop was enthroned at the beginning of July.

A new library just beyond the Police Station at Bedminster was opened at the beginning of May. The building was the gift of Mr. G.A. Wills; the architect was Sir Frank Wills and the builder A. Dowling & Son.

During the first week of the month a new headquarters for Bristol Boy Scouts' Association at 27 Portland Square was opened by the Lord Mayor. There were 50 troops and 1,000 members in the city.

The International Exhibition at Ashton Gate was opened in time for the Whit-Monday Bank Holiday at the beginning of June. Thousands of excursionists visited the site and the attendance on that day was over 48,000. A couple of weeks afterwards the crowd attending was entertained by a choir of 1,200 voices. By the middle of the month the exhibition was experiencing financial difficulties; Arthur Collins had been appointed as receiver and manager and he had to make arrangements to continue trading by restructuring the share capital. Some entertainments had to be cancelled and reduced admission prices after 6 p.m. were announced. In July there was an order to wind up the

company running the exhibition but it was to remain open. It finally closed in the first week of August; the meeting of creditors heard that no dividend was likely and that the deficit was estimated at £27,617.

Judge Austin, Bristol's County Court Judge, died on 3 June. It was said that his judgements were not often appealed against and, when they were, they were generally upheld. In addition to his judicial duties he was a strong supporter of the institution for lost and starving dogs and Chairman and Treasurer of the Clifton Zoological Gardens Society; through the offices of one of his sons in India the Judge obtained a young elephant for the Zoo but unfortunately it did not survive the journey. The Lord Chancellor appointed Judge Amyas Philip Longstaffe to take his place but he died before taking up his appointment and Henry Yorke Stanger KC was then appointed.

On 20 June the Anglo American Petroleum Products Co. Ltd opened a new oil depot at Avonmouth. The tanker steamer *San Melito* brought in the largest consignment of oil ever received at the port.

At the end of the month there was a financial crisis in the local collieries due, it was said, to a change in their banker's attitude. 2,000 men were likely to be affected and the Lord Mayor sent a telegram to London City & Midland Bank asking them to agree to a receiver being appointed. The bank responded that it would agree to this for a period of three months 'if you and your friends will indemnify us from any loss.' Miners were advised to look for other work in the South Wales coalfield. Parkfield colliery was reopened shortly afterwards and at the end of August the men agreed to restrict industrial action in order to assist new owners who were proposing to take over the collieries.

At the beginning of July a meeting held under the auspices of the Bristol branch of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (presided over by Edward Meade-King) strongly criticised the attitude of Bristol University towards experiments on living animals.

At the end of the month a new wing was opened at Bristol General Hospital free of debt. The ceremony was presided over by the President George A. Wills and commenced with the singing of the hymn *Thou to Whom the Sick and Dying*. The architects for the new wing were Oatley and Lawrence and the builders William Cowlin & Sons.

On 3 August the front axle of the engine tender of the London to Bristol express broke and a serious accident was prevented by the actions of Driver Stone of 145, Bath Road, Totterdown. On arrival at Temple Meads the passengers collected the sum of £6:14s to recognise his skill and the promptitude with which he reacted.

At the beginning of the month Cardinal Gasquet visited the city. He was said to be the greatest living authority on the Reformation and a

banquet in his honour at the Victoria Rooms was presided over by the Bishop of Clifton and attended by the Lord Mayor.

War was declared on 5 August and before very long Bristolians were recounting the difficulties experienced whilst returning from the Continent. Bristol Royal Infirmary made preparations for use by the military and the Bristol Guardians offered the use of their new infirmary at Southmead. The 4th and 6th Gloucesters deposited their regimental colours with the Lord Mayor for safe keeping and the Bristol society of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies agreed to suspend political activities and to devote their energies to relief work.

The Bristol Citizens' Recruiting Committee held its first meeting on 17 August and for a while met daily.¹ On 31 August a telegram was received from Lord Kitchener sanctioning the formation of a battalion of 'better class young men' from Bristol. The committee decided to put out an appeal to 'Athletic, Mercantile and Professional young men' to be sent to 'Clubs (Political, Athletic and Social), Banks Insurance Offices, Merchants, Manufacturers, Brokers and large Retailers.' They later decided to omit the word 'Athletic' from the appeal. In less than a fortnight 500 recruits had been found and the battalion, known as 12th Gloucesters (Bristol's Own) was up to full strength by the end of September. The committee, financed by guarantees from a large number of citizens, was responsible for paying for the equipment and training of the men until the unit was taken over by the War Office. Fred Weatherley, Bristol's barrister/song-writer, composed 'Bravo Bristol' and the song was printed and the proceeds given to the new battalion's funds.

In the previous year the Docks Committee had ordered a new dredger from a shipyard in Germany and at the end of July Mr. T.A. Pearce, the Assistant Docks Engineer, set out to attend the vessel's trials. He could get no farther than Flushing and had to return. Throughout the contract his colleague Mr. S.J. Thomas and his wife had resided in Germany to inspect the work as it progressed; Mrs. Thomas was repatriated but her husband had to spend the rest of the war in a camp for internees near Spandau.

In the first few days of the war 50 bootmakers from Kingswood went to Aldershot but were told that their services were not required. Despite this, however, recruiting started in earnest at the end of August and beginning of September. The previous season's captain of Bristol Rugby Club, A.E. Crew, and four colleagues enlisted and about three weeks later it was learned that he had been promoted sergeant. Two of Gloucestershire's professional cricketers, Dipper and Gange, joined up.

¹ The minute book is in Bristol Reference Library (B 11786).

30% of the city's chartered accountant articled clerks sent in their names to join the Officers' Training Corps. By the first week in September the first casualty list was published and the Lord Mayor was visiting the wounded in hospital. Also in September the War Office decided to purchase the exhibition site at Ashton from the receiver for use as a training camp and Mr. R.E. Bush offered his house Bishops Knoll for use as a military hospital.

In July the Council had decided to purchase land at Parson Street and Stapleton Road for housing schemes that would result in the construction of 128 and 80 houses respectively. By September they had found it necessary to abandon the Stapleton Road scheme entirely and to purchase the Parson Street land but to incur no expenditure for the construction of houses.

Midway through September Bristol was declared a 'prohibited area', one of the effects of which was that aliens had to register. Wilhelm Jorkensen, a German seaman on board a Norwegian ship at Sharpness was charged with being a German citizen and going ashore contrary to the Aliens Act. He pleaded guilty but explained that he was merely talking to the girls on shore and was fined £10. Gabriel E. Kopp, the proprietor of the Clifton Down Hotel, was forced to write to the local press giving details of his passport to show that he was not a German subject.

Sir Herbert Ashman died on 27 September following an operation for appendicitis. He served as Lord Mayor in 1898/99 and 1899/1900 and received his knighthood on the occasion of Queen Victoria's visit in November 1899. Sir Herbert was a leather merchant, a Liberal in politics and was President of the Anchor Society in 1898.

In October the first meeting in the current season of the Bristol branch of the Historical Association took place. The Vice President, Mrs. D. Portway Dobson BA, read a paper on 'The Rise of Germany'.

The well-respected Chief Constable James Cann resigned in September and in the following month John Henderson Watson of the Devonport Police was appointed to succeed him.

By the autumn the war was having a noticeable effect on the life of the city. The Colston Hall was in use as a recruiting centre and regular recruiting meetings were held. Belgian refugees arrived and were billeted in various locations and their children integrated in local schools. A remount depot to provide horses and mules for the military was opened at Shirehampton and the League of Frontiersmen were engaged in breaking in young horses there. Some 5,000 troops, mostly from Scottish regiments, arrived in November and the licensing justices ordered that all public houses should close at 9 p.m. notwithstanding protests from the licensed victuallers. Many of the incoming troops were billeted at the Colston Hall and the recruiting committee moved its activities to the Guildhall.

No municipal elections were held in November; throughout the war vacancies on the Council were filled by co-option. The annual dinners of the Colston societies eschewed political speeches, although the Burgomaster of Malines, Matthew Delfain, responded to the toast of 'Our Allies' at the Anchor Society.

At the outset of the war fears were expressed that the loss of trade would lead to large-scale unemployment. The restoration of St. Stephen's tower had been started in August to provide work for the unemployed and the Chamber of Commerce organised a meeting to suggest new opportunities to take over markets previously operated by German manufacturers. Col. Gibbs, MP, wrote to the War Office pointing out the capabilities of local boot manufacturers. His plea may have had an effect as an order from the French army was received in September. By October the Distress Committee was still commissioning road-widening schemes to provide work. In November the Relief Committee reported that it was operating a training centre at the University Settlement for girls and unmarried women who had lost their employment because of the war. They undertook sewing and needlework in the morning and after a meal were treated to a quiet talk by Miss Gostick, the lady in charge of the centre, on such subjects as 'Our Duty in Wartime' and other interesting topics.

The first Britonian to receive the Victoria Cross was Sergeant Thomas Edward Rendle of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. It was awarded for conspicuous bravery on 20 November whilst attending to wounded men near Wulverghem.

In November the city received news of the death in action of Captain A.E.J. Collins, Royal Engineers, whose innings of 628 not out still stands as a cricketing record.²

Dame Emily Smyth died in London on 23 November. After her husband's death she devoted herself to charitable causes in Long Ashton and Bristol. She provided an open space on the site of the Dean Lane Colliery known as 'Dame Emily Playground' and was a generous supporter of Bristol Museum and the Bristol General Hospital.

By November there was criticism that recruiting had fallen off in Bristol and that the city was not providing the same proportion of its young men as some of the northern industrial centres. The Recruiting Committee pointed out that Bristol was playing an important part in the war effort and that men were needed at the docks, the remount depot and

² The innings is described in *A Season's Fame* (pamphlet number 77 in this series).

factories producing clothing, boots, motor vehicles and aircraft. However the Cardiff Recruiting Committee pointed out that at the Southern League match at Ninian Park between Cardiff City and Bristol Rovers there were enough able-bodied spectators to provide men for two battalions. It was understood that some 2,000 travelled from Bristol for the match. At the end of November the Recruiting Committee had heard from Southern Command that Bristol's quota for Kitchener's Army was 7,500 whereas only 3,000 had been obtained.

In December the Docks Committee was able to report that the dispute, which had been dragging on for years, between them and Sir John Aird over the final payment for work at the Royal Edward Dock had been settled. The contractors had claimed £170,000 and the final payment eventually agreed was £65,000.

Domestic matters also concerned the citizens. Mrs. Nellie Robbins of Doone Road, Horfield complained of the absence of a school in Upper Horfield. She pointed out that children aged five should not have to walk to Ashley Down, a journey taking 45 minutes at least, in all weathers twice a day.

1915

Among the New Year's honours was an earldom for Sir Michael Hicks-Beach who became Lord St. Aldwyn.

In January Ellen Clara Peacock and her sons Herbert Charles and Grantley Arthur were charged with fraud arising out of the affairs of Champion Boot Co. of Kingswood which became insolvent in 1914; they were committed for trial. At the February assizes the charges of fraud were not proceeded with and they were sentenced for breaches of the Debtors Act. Mrs. Peacock received six months' imprisonment, Grantley three months and Herbert ten months. In March they were given leave to appeal.

Mrs. Swaish, the Lady Mayoress died in January.

Later in the same month Ernest Harris, aged 19, appeared before the Bristol justices. He tried to enlist in the Royal Artillery without disclosing the fact that he had recently been discharged from the 4th Gloucesters as medically unfit. He was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for this deception; the magistrate, Major Dunscombe, commented that there had been a number of such cases and that it would be wise to make a public example in this instance.

In January the Recruiting Committee received the sanction to form the 127th Heavy Artillery Battery and within a month 200 men had joined; more recruits applied and a second unit known as the 129th Heavy Battery was formed.

At the end of January the Bristol Teachers' Association resolved that, in view of the considerable inconvenience caused by the shortage of coal, teachers should be empowered to close the school when the temperature fell below 45 degrees. The Education Committee, to whom the resolution was sent, felt that the matter should be referred to the Chairman and Vice Chairman with power to deal with the matter, as they thought fit.

At the beginning of February the Recruiting Committee heard that 7,650 men had enlisted (excluding Territorials and Reservists). Of that number 4,325 joined at the Colston Hall in August and September and the remainder between September and January. From January the local recruiting committee had to work in conjunction with the London based Parliamentary Recruiting Committee and, to begin with, there was some friction between the two because the London committee felt that the Bristol committee was not sufficiently representative of all political parties; the position was remedied by inviting all local parliamentary agents to join the committee. In January the Recruiting Committee invited Mr. Hilaire Belloc to give two lectures; his fee was £150 and, by charging for admission, a profit of £24:7s:8d was achieved.

Sir Henry Miles, the fourth baronet, died at Leigh Court on 7 February. He succeeded to the title in 1898 and was a member of Somerset County Council and chairman of the Long Ashton Board of Guardians and District Council. Sir Henry was a member of the North Somerset Conservative Association and a past President of the Dolphin Society.

At a meeting of the Bristol Vigilance Society in February reference was made to the way in which young girls lost their heads and forced their attentions upon soldiers in the streets and parks. However, women police patrols had, it was stated, done useful work. The Health Committee was able to report to the Council in May that there had been a decline in the number of illegitimate births.

Captain Langton-Thomas raised a corps of cyclists in 16 days at the end of February and beginning of March. The corps formed part of the South Midlands division and comprised 264 men, 130 of them having been recruited in Bristol. Their average age was 24.

George Joseph Smith - the 'brides in the bath' murderer and serial bigamist - was arrested in February. In 1908 he had bigamously married Edith Mabel Pegler at Bristol Register Office and together they ran an antiques shop at 389, Gloucester Road, Horfield. From time to time Smith left Bristol to engage in his nefarious activities but returned to Miss Pegler once the deed had been done. His last victim was Elizabeth Loftly whom he met on Durdham Down; she was drowned in her bath in their lodgings at Highgate on the last day of their honeymoon. Smith was tried at the Old Bailey at the end of June. Miss Pegler was in court on

every day of the trial and was present when the jury, after retiring for 25 minutes, found him guilty on three counts of murder. He appealed unsuccessfully to the Court of Criminal Appeal and was hanged at Maidstone Gaol on Friday 13 August. His last letter was to Miss Pegler.

In March ss *Welsh Coast* was launched at Charles Hills' shipyard. The vessel was 212 feet in length and its tonnage was 1037 gross and 499 net; it had a speed of 10.3 knots. It was the largest vessel built in Bristol since the *Bristol City*, launched in 1899 and its construction pointed to a revival of shipbuilding in the city.

By April the total number of recruits in Bristol had risen to 9,230.

The Black Watch left the city on 21 April. Prior to their departure there was a public meeting at the Colston Hall at which the Lord Mayor wished them well. Bristolians had been asked not to treat the soldiers but this request may have been superfluous as, according to the Commanding Officer, all but 50 of the battalion had resolved not to touch alcohol until the war was over.

When 'Bristol's Own' battalion was formed recruits were not accepted if they were under 5' 3" in height and a number of shorter men were disappointed that they could not join. At the end of April the Recruiting Committee received the War Office's approval to form another infantry battalion particularly for those men whose height was between 5' 0" and 5' 3". The unit, which became the 14th Gloucesters (the West of England Bantams), left the city in August and was fit for active service by January in the following year.

James Cann, the recently retired Chief Constable, died on 30 April.

At the May Day rally on Durdham Down there was an emphatic protest at remarks made by David Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, whilst announcing plans to curb the consumption of alcohol. He had commented that poor levels of production in munitions factories were due to the workers' drunken habits. Speakers at the rally denied this and maintained that poor production was due to the government's shortsighted policy of denuding factories of skilled workers at the beginning of the war.

In May Thomas Holmes Gore, the Clerk to the Justices who was then aged 79, asked to be relieved of some of his duties and Mr. James E. Braithwaite was appointed as joint clerk but in such a manner that no extra expense by way of salary was incurred. Unfortunately Mr. Braithwaite died a few months later.

Whit Monday, 24 May, was also celebrated as Empire Day and there was a parade of some 5,000 troops; the end of the procession was still leaving Queen Square when the head reached Durdham Down where there was a march-past. Amongst those attending was Corporal T.E. Rendle, VC;

he was born in Mead Street, St. Luke's and joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry as a bandsman at the end of the Boer War.

There was a formal farewell for 'Bristol's Own' at the Colston Hall on Whit Tuesday. The Lord Mayor presided and George Riseley performed a selection of patriotic airs on the grand organ and led the singing of patriotic songs. The regiment left the city in June and went to Yorkshire for training and was in France towards the end of the year. The number of recruits enlisted in the city reached 10,000 in May. At the conclusion of their training the School of Musketry announced that the 12th Gloucesters were the top unit in the New Army for shooting as a battalion. Sergeant Arthur Bailey, with 154 points in part three of the musketry course held the individual record for the New Army. Sergeant-Major Bailey (as he later became) was the son of a grocer whose shop was at School Road, Totterdown and had been a member of the rifle section of the Knowle Constitutional Club.

The Royal Colonial Institute, adjoining the Victoria Rooms, was opened in May by Earl Grey. The building was made possible by a gift from T.J. Lennard and the architect was Norman G. Bridgman, ARIBA.

Alderman Francis Frederick Fox died on 31 May at Yate House, Yate. He was an oil and colour merchant and also a partner in a firm of African merchants. He was the leading Conservative on the City Council for many years and served as President of the Grateful Society. Alderman Fox had a great interest in archaeology and local history and was President of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society in 1900.

The Blind Asylum and the headquarters of the 4th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment (City of Bristol Rifles) in Park Row had been acquired by the Corporation and the University for the construction of an extension of the museum and the Wills Memorial Building. A new regimental headquarters and drill hall in Old Market was opened on 2 June by Lieutenant-General E.C. Bethune, Director General of the Territorial Army. The building was erected on the site of the old Bristol Sugar Refinery; the architects were W.S. Paul and R.C. James and the builder William Cowlin & Sons. The Blind Asylum was demolished in September.

Also demolished in June was a group of old properties on the 'island' at the junction of Christmas and Rupert Streets. The site was triangular and on one side of it the nameplate of St. John's Bridge was still visible.

David Lloyd George, now Minister of Munitions, visited the city in June. He visited Filton Aeroplane Works and met representatives of local engineering trades. He attended a meeting at the Colston Hall and appears to have been received courteously despite his remarks earlier in the year.

When the Scottish troops arrived in the city earlier in the year some of them were billeted at the Colston Hall. This fact, combined with the

slow-down in recruiting (which had reached a low ebb by the end of June) prompted the removal of the Recruiting Office from the Colston Hall to the Guildhall. An awkward situation arose during the Summer Assize in June when the Sheriff peremptorily ordered the recruiters to quit the Guildhall despite the fact that the Recruiting Committee had arranged to use the Lord Mayor's Parlour during the Assize. There was a vigorous and indignant protest from the Bristol Recruiting Committee and the Lord Mayor had to pour oil on the troubled waters. The Sheriff, J.S.G.W. Stroud, somewhat belatedly, wrote a letter of explanation and expressed his wish to be taken off the membership of the committee. The remainder of the members did not accept his resignation but resolved to rescind their earlier resolution that the Sheriff for the time being should be a member of the committee so long as Mr. Stroud held that position. In the following December they invited the new Sheriff, Herbert Chattock, to become a member.

After a dry June there was a heavy storm on 4 July. Hailstones 1¼" in diameter fell and there was flooding in Clifton and Cheltenham Road and a landslip in Redland Road near the railway bridge.

At a Council meeting at the end of July Alderman Sheppard proposed that all committees employing women instead of men who were in the Forces should pay them the same wage as the men they replaced. The proposal was referred to the Selection Committee who, in turn, appointed an *ad hoc* sub-committee (which included Alderman Sheppard) to consider the proposal and report back. There is no record that it ever did so.

By July plans were being made for the registration of all men of military age and an appeal for volunteers to assist with this task went out. 800 enumerators had been engaged by the beginning of August.

On 9 August a boat trip organised by the Fresh Air Fund ended in tragedy. The steamer *Emily* took 130 children from needy homes from Bristol Bridge to Bees's Tea Gardens. Just before the return trip, whilst the boat was still moored at the landing stage, there was a routine but noisy escape of steam. The children panicked and some jumped over the rail into the river and tried to scramble ashore. All except four were rescued; Frederick Victor Taynton, Florence Bray and Blanche Joliffe of Baptist Mills and Claud Staggs of Stapleton were the unfortunate casualties.

In August the freedom of the city was conferred upon Sir Robert Borden, the Canadian Premier.

In the same month a submarine in the Aegean sank the *Royal Edward*. The ship, which belonged to the Canadian Northern Company, had taken a large number of emigrants from Bristol to Canada. The crew numbered 230, the majority having signed on in Bristol.

The Trades Union Congress met in the city from 6 until 11 September. The 600 delegates met at the YMCA Hall in St. James's

Square and were addressed by Ramsay Macdonald and David Lloyd George who urged them not to allow any restrictive practices or demarcation disputes to affect the production of munitions. The delegates passed a resolution opposing conscription.

On 7 September the King and Queen paid surprise visit lasting about five hours. They visited military hospitals and the King presented Distinguished Conduct Medals to a number of soldiers.

At their September meeting the City Council received a petition protesting against pacifist propaganda in Bristol. There was an objection to the use of the Downs and public parks for meetings, a reference to the use of the University Settlement by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and a criticism of the University. The Estates and General Purposes Committee subsequently reported that pacifists were few in number and of negligible influence. The Vice Chancellor let it be known that the University was in no sense pro-German and was doing good service for King and Country.

Dr. W.G. Grace died at his home at Eltham on 23 October. He was born in Downend in 1848 and, although he qualified as a medical practitioner in 1879, he is remembered as one of the greatest (if not the greatest) cricketers of all time.

Recruiting picked up during the autumn; just under 400 men enlisted during the first week of November and the Recruiting Office returned to the Colston Hall from the Guildhall. There was a slump again by the end of the month but a steady stream of men signed up under Lord Derby's scheme by which men attested voluntarily pledging themselves to join up if and when needed.

Lady White, the wife of Sir George White, died at Old Sneed Park on 10 November. She became involved with her husband's charitable activities particularly with regard to the Voluntary Aid Detachment of the Red Cross and the Royal Infirmary.

In November Mr. W.J. Davey attempted to enlist but was rejected because he only had one leg, having lost the other in the Boer War. He protested at his rejection and appealed to the King. The authorities found him employment at the Remount Depot.

The first prosecution under the law, which forbade 'treating', took place in the same month when Frederick Charles Eagles, the licensee of the Cat and Wheel, Castle Green, appeared before the justices. A customer ordered five drinks and tendered half a crown in payment and was handed his change by Mr. Eagles. The defence maintained that the customer collected payment from his four friends and was not treating them but this was not accepted by the magistrates who fined him £5.

Alderman Joseph Pembury died on 12 November. He was a stalwart of the Friendly Society movement and held every office open to him in

the Ancient Order of Foresters. A Liberal and a Congregationalist, Mr. Pembery was a councillor for Bedminster East ward and an alderman from 1911 until his death.

The Tramways Act 1870 gave the Corporation the right, once every seven years, to purchase the tramways undertaking from Bristol Tramways Company. The Corporation had been interested in the tramways for some time but were more concerned with negotiating a reduction in fares than an outright purchase. Although the Act gave them the right to purchase, it did not confer the right to run the tramways and a private Act of Parliament was necessary for that purpose. Nevertheless, when the right to purchase arose in 1915, they set about obtaining the private Act and organised a poll of ratepayers that approved the purchase. The Corporation's courage seems to have failed at the last moment and the formal notice of intended purchase had not been served upon the company by the end of the year.

1916

In January it was announced that the Victoria Cross had been posthumously awarded to Lieut. Commander Edgar Christopher Cookson whose parents lived at 15 Royal Park, Clifton. The award was in respect of an action on the River Tigris during the advance on Kut-el-Amara in Mesopotamia.

In January the Headmaster of Bristol Cathedral School, Rev. J.F. Spink, when questioned by the Governors, admitted incidents of indecency against three boys and was summarily dismissed. An assistant master was appointed as a temporary acting head and in May the Governors appointed Rev. H.A. Watts, the Headmaster of Ipswich School, to the post; he took up the position in September.

In February the magistrates agreed to appoint Walter L.J. Crosby, the clerk to the justices at Chertsey, Surrey, as their joint clerk in place of the late James E. Braithwaite. Mr. Crosby was educated at Bristol Grammar School and his late father had been the chief reporter of the *Bristol Mercury*; but he did not take up the appointment because the Chertsey justices wished to retain him and he had a number of other appointments in the area. In March the magistrates appointed W.S. George, Clerk to the Birkenhead Justices, as their joint clerk. When the Council met to confirm this appointment they had before them a letter from Bristol Ratepayers' Association urging them not to make the appointment, commenting 'to select a candidate above the military age would be manifestly unfair to a considerable number who under normal circumstances would desire to compete for the post but are at present, or will be in the near future, loyally serving their country in the active arena of the war.' Councillor Senington also proposed that the appointment should

not be made '... from the standpoint of National Economy and in view of the City's freedom from crime there is no pressing need for the appointment of a Joint Magistrates' Clerk during the period of the war.' The Council nevertheless confirmed Mr. George's appointment.

The Very Rev. Francis Pigou, Dean of Bristol, died on 25 January, aged 84. Prior to becoming Dean in 1891 he had been Vicar of Doncaster and then of Halifax. Whilst in the city he did much for the Cathedral both as regards the fabric and also in making it a centre of religious life. He was succeeded by Canon St. J.B. Wynne Wilson who was appointed at the comparatively young age of 47. Canon Wynne Wilson was Headmaster of Haileybury from 1905 until 1911 and of Marlborough from 1911 until becoming Dean.

The Labour Party's Annual Conference, chaired by Mr. W.C. Anderson MP, took place on 28 January. The Union of Dock Labourers proposed a resolution that expressed an opposition to 'all systems of permanent militarism as a danger to human progress' but nevertheless considered 'that the present action of the Government is fully justified'; it was carried by 1,520,000 votes to 602,000. Another resolution protesting at the introduction of compulsory military service was passed by 1,716,000 votes to 300,000 but a further vote pledging to agitate for its repeal was lost by 614,000 votes to 649,000 because the mining union abstained.

At the end of the month the final voluntary recruiting campaign took place; conscription was about to be introduced. During a meeting at the Colston Hall the Lord Mayor said 'I hope that when the time comes for that Act to be put into operation there will be no single men of military age who can be swept into the net of compulsory service. I hope there will be no laggards in Bristol but that our dear old city will have contributed every one of her manhood to fight for King and country, for your homes and for our old flag.'

Canon Henry Nicholson Ellacombe died on 7 February at the age of 93; he had been Vicar of Bitton for 65 years. For many years he had devoted his leisure to botany and gardening and was the author of *A Gloucestershire Garden* and *My Vicarage Garden and Elsewhere*.

Alderman Christopher Albert Hayes died on 16 February aged 65. He was apprenticed to his uncle as a builder and contractor and, after gaining experience with some London firms, he started his own business in 1873. He was responsible for the construction of many important buildings in the city. He became a Councillor in 1904 and was Lord Mayor in 1909/10 and 1910/11.

In February the Education Committee considered the question of training women clerical workers so as to release male clerks for national service. They noted that the Merchant Venturers Technical College had

set up a class for training women who were willing to give up their posts after the war. The class had opened in November 1915; 31 students had been admitted and 28 had gained a certificate but up to the middle of January only 11 had been engaged.

The Government had given a pledge that before attested married men were called up there would be a careful scrutiny of the cases of single men in reserved occupations or Government establishments who were exempt from conscription. In March there was a protest meeting of attested married men who considered that the pledge had not been honoured. At the same period tribunals began to consider claims for exemption from conscription both on religious grounds and for personal domestic reasons. In February the Council nominated ten men to constitute the tribunal; the number was increased to 15 in March and to 20 in June. At the beginning of April the magistrates began hearing cases of men who had received their calling-up papers but had not attended. On 7 April Richard and Walter Lewis, Gilbert Charles Grant and Henry William Fullock were each fined 40/- and handed over to the military authorities.

During the year ended 31 March 186 boys and 19 girls between the ages of seven and seventeen had been detained, either on remand or after conviction, in various places of detention under the supervision of the Watch Committee. The average ages were 12 for boys and 13½ for girls. In the previous year 119 boys and 9 girls had been detained.

At their meeting at the end of March the City Council resolved to grant honorary freedoms to the Hon W. Morris Hughes, Premier of Australia, and Sir Thomas Mackenzie, Premier of New Zealand. They were formally admitted as freemen on 20 May.

There was a blizzard at the end of March and, during the course of it, a motor vehicle owned by Henry Fedden was stopped by PC Padfield at Henbury Hill because the headlights were too brilliant in contravention of the Defence of the Realm Act. The constable ordered Mr. Fedden's chauffeur to extinguish the light and he did so but was countermanded by his employer. The constable repeated the order upon which Mr. Fedden said 'How dare you defy me, I am a magistrate and I will report you to the Chief Constable.' The case came before his colleagues who fined him £5.

The Swansea Education Committee had decided that they were in favour of the introduction of metrication; they sent a copy of their resolution to Bristol and asked for support. The letter was considered in May and the Elementary Sub-Committee were wholeheartedly in favour whilst the Higher Education Sub-Committee felt that metrication should be introduced gradually. The Elementary Sub-Committee also considered a letter from the Simplified Spelling Society at their June meeting but decided to take no action upon it.

At their meeting on 20 June the Council welcomed Lieutenant Meldrum and a party from the 14th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment (West of England Bantam Battalion) who presented the city with a German machine gun that they had recently captured. The initial letter giving notice of the proposed presentation came from Major-General R. Pinney, commanding the 35th Division of the British Expeditionary Force, who was believed to be a grandson of Charles Pinney, Mayor at the time of the 1832 Bristol Riots.

The Chief Scout, Sir Robert Baden Powell, visited the city on 22 July and was present at a Rally and Demonstration in the park of Ashton Court. 2,000 Boy Scouts took part.

Sir William Ramsey, the former Principal of Bristol University College, died in July. He took up the chair of Chemistry in 1880 at the age of twenty-seven and became principal two years later. In 1887 he moved to University College London and was elected FRS in 1893.

Following the introduction of conscription, the National Registration Act 1915 required that every person residing in the city on 15 August should register. The city was divided into 805 registration districts and volunteers delivered forms to every household and collected them after completion. The enumerators had to check the forms to ensure that they were filled in correctly; every-one had to be fitted in into an occupational group (there were 46 for men and 30 for women) and copies of all forms relating to men between the ages of 18 and 41 had to be made out and sent to the recruiting authorities. About 200 volunteers prepared the register itself and the volume of work was such that the Coliseum had to be rented for two weeks to accommodate them. 87,661 males and 131,107 females were registered and the cost of the exercise was £593:1s:11d. The register then had to be kept up to date.

During the year the Watch Committee had to consider various problems arising from the fact that a number of policemen had joined the forces. They paid an allowance to those who volunteered but in April they agreed not to make any payment to men who were conscripted. By May nearly 40% of the force had joined the army and navy and the committee had to resolve that no more men could be spared. Officers who had been in the force for 25 years were entitled to retire on pension but during the national emergency they had to continue in service if the force's medical officer decided that they were fit. One unfortunate victim of this rule was Inspector Charles Harrison who was due to retire in June but had to continue in service; in August he was killed whilst helping to fight a fire at the premises of Shipway & Son of 45 Old Market Street. The fire was practically extinguished and Inspector Harrison and three firemen were having a last look round on the second floor when it collapsed, killing him and seriously

injuring the firemen. Inspector Harrison was a widower and had five children between the ages of 12 and 24, only one of whom was wholly self-supporting. The committee agreed to pay his funeral expenses amounting to £15 but because of the provisions of the Police Act 1895 the only other payments they had power to make were annual payments of £5 each to the two youngest children until they attained the age of 15. The Lord Mayor had to launch an appeal fund for the family.

On Saturday 9 September an unusual event took place in the Magistrates' Court. The Clerk reported that for the first time in 20 years there was no list of offenders and in accordance with custom he presented the magistrates on duty, Messrs. R. Dugdale and Stanley Gange, with a pair of white gloves.

In September the authorities commenced a campaign of questioning young men of military age. On Sunday 10 September about 50 plain clothes officers stopped and questioned young men on Durdham Down (where a crowd of young people were at a band performance near the reservoir) and in parks at Horfield and Bedminster. Their efforts resulted in a number of men accompanying them to a police station.

In October the Governors of Bristol Grammar School appointed Joseph Edwin Barton as Headmaster in place of Cyril Norwood who had been appointed Master of Marlborough. Mr. Barton was a distinguished scholar and had won the Newdigate Prize at Oxford for English verse in 1897; before this appointment Mr. Barton was Headmaster of Wakefield Grammar School.

Councillor Walter Henry Ayles had frequently expressed his pacifist views during Council meetings and was opposed to conscription. He had been granted exemption from military service on grounds of conscience provided he did work of national importance. He did not comply with this condition and had ignored notices to report for service. He was arrested at Glasgow whilst attending an anti-conscription rally and appeared before the Bristol magistrates on 13 November. He was fined the minimum sum of 40/- and handed over to the military authorities.

Alderman William Terrett, the 'father of the Council', died on 15 November in his 80th year. He was a member of the Bedminster Board of Guardians and of Somerset Council before becoming a councillor for the Bedminster East ward in 1882. He was chairman of the Libraries Committee and instrumental in securing Victoria Park for public purposes; he was also much involved with the temperance movement and a member of the Bible Christian Methodist Church.

Sir George White died on 24 November. Born at Kingsdown in 1854, he started work as a junior clerk at the age of fifteen in the office of Stanley & Wasbrough, solicitors. In the course of his work he became knowledgeable in bankruptcy and transport law and in 1875 he left the

firm to start his own stockbroking business. His primary business interest was in the sphere of transport; he became managing director of the Bristol Tramways Company and was involved with transport undertakings in a number of other towns and cities; he pioneered the electrification of tramways. Sir George founded the company that became the Bristol Aeroplane Company and was also involved in railway companies. He was a generous donor to charities including the Red Cross, the Bristol Royal Infirmary and the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital at Nice.

At their December meeting the Council discussed a suggestion from the Chairman of the Royal West of England Academy that the panels in the Council Chamber 'should be utilised for hanging paintings by artists of repute illustrating incidents in the past history of our ancient city.' They viewed the suggestion favourably and welcomed an offer from Mr. W. Melville-Wills to meet the cost of the first one to be painted by John Hassall RI.

In December the Education Committee discussed a resolution that had been passed by the Council of Liverpool University regarding the employment of men who had not served in the forces. Adopting the procedure followed by the university the committee decided that in future all male applicants for posts who were of military age should declare the details of their service, the date when the service commenced and, if they did not serve, the reasons for their abstention.

On 20 December the first twenty-five lady tram conductors started work.

1917

On 15 January a serious fire destroyed the premises of Wathen Gardner & Co at Staple Hill. The factory, which was insured, had been erected about 19 years previously and was engaged in the production of military and other clothing. Some 400 to 500 workpeople were employed there. Although the premises were not within the city, the Fire Brigade attended. During the ensuing year there was correspondence and discussion with the Ministry of Munitions and neighbouring local authorities to regularise arrangements for tackling fires at factories outside the city boundary. The ministry agreed to indemnify the city for any costs and claims arising.

At its January meeting Alderman Swaish called the Watch Committee's attention to the nuisance caused by the excessive amount of smoke emitted from motor cars. The committee asked the Chief Constable to ask all motor cab companies to prevent such emissions as far as possible.

Some of the newly appointed lady tram conductors were suffering at the hands of boys who threw gravel at them. One boy aged 14 appeared before the Bristol Magistrates' Children's Court in February following an incident at East Street, Bedminster when he jumped on the tram and threw sand at Lily Barry. He was caught by an inspector and the magistrates

fined him one pound and costs and bound him over to be of good behaviour for 12 months.

The Recruiting Committee suffered a loss when Sir Joseph Weston-Stevens, the acting chairman, died on 7 February. He was one time chairman of the Taff Vale Railway Company and Bristol Wagon & Carriage Works and a director of the Colston Hall Company and of Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds (his wife was a member of the Keen family). Sir Joseph, who served as President of the Anchor Society in 1897 and as Sheriff in 1902, was very much involved in the volunteer movement. He was a Liberal and received his knighthood for services to the party.

Walter Reid died on 18 February in his 89th year. He grew up in the north east and moved to Bristol in 1858 to become the original editor of the *Western Daily Press*, the first daily newspaper in the West of England. On the death of Mr. P.S. McIver in 1891 he became the sole proprietor of the paper. He took a keen interest in the Bristol Royal Infirmary of which he was a Governor.

In March a contingent of Canadian soldiers from the 128th Battalion (known as the 'Moosejaws' after the town from which they came) came to Bristol to deposit their colours until the end of the war. Some 150 of them, with their band, arrived at Temple Meads Station and marched to the Council House where they were welcomed by the Lord Mayor and other prominent citizens. They were entertained to lunch and in the evening attended a concert organised by the constabulary. On the following day they marched to the Cathedral for a service at which they laid up their colours.

In the following month the National Union of Teachers held their annual conference in London at which Mr. T.H.J. Underdown, a teacher at Ashton Gate Council School, was elected President.

In April it was announced that the Royal Fort would be purchased from the Tyndall trustees by the Wills family for use by the University and in October Mr. H.H. Wills handed over the title deeds. At the end of July the Corporation agreed to sell Stuart House (part of which had been used as a home for nurses and part as a preventive home for girls) to the University for use in connection with its acquisition of the Royal Fort; the purchase price was £2,500.

At the beginning of May a deputation from the Education Committee presented a statement to the local magistrates expressing concern at the growing irregularity of attendance in schools. In the period from January to April 1914 48 offenders had been brought before the court and in the corresponding period in the current year 126 had appeared. They added that the War Office had requested that where the children of parents drawing Army Separation Allowance were persistently bad attenders that the attention of the War Office should be drawn to the case with a view to the possible forfeiture

of the allowance. The deputation pointed out that the absentees resulted in a loss of Government grant and that poverty was not an excuse because there was then less hardship than before the war. They recommended that the bench should impose heavier fines and commented that the fines imposed by the Bristol court were lower than those in other areas.

The register compiled under the provisions of the National Registration Act had to be maintained and kept up to date. The committee administering the act reported in June that the annual cost amounted to £781 and that they were reimbursed by the Local Government Board. One of the committee's tasks was to ensure that the registration certificates of male artistes appearing at theatres and music halls were inspected weekly to make sure that they were properly registered.

In June the Watch Committee received a deputation and a petition containing some 4,000 names requesting that the Sunday trading prohibitions should be enforced. The committee commented that the petition would carry more weight if it could be shown that the various trade organisations in the city supported it. The delegation went away to consult the organisations.

At the same meeting the committee appointed Miss I.C. Ferguson to supervise the work of women police officers.

Following the Council's decision in December of the previous year, a painting of the State Entry of Queen Elizabeth in 1574 by John Hassall RI, RWA was unveiled by the Lady Mayoress in the Council Chamber at the beginning of July.

On Sunday 22 July there was a specially convened meeting held at the Palace in Baldwin Street, arranged by the transport workers, to draw attention to questions of food wastage and distribution. Ernest Bevin spoke of a consignment of food that had changed hands seven times without leaving the warehouse and of a Bristol miller still supplying a customer in Liverpool thereby involving transport resources unnecessarily. He argued that the remedy was to instruct dockers not to handle a single pound of foodstuff except for the state. Ben Tillett, who became Member of Parliament for North Salford in the following November, also spoke and expressed the view that 'no German Hun had been such a deadly enemy as the rapacious shipowner.'

At the end of July the Corporation resolved to consider a proposal for a Town Planning Scheme affecting land at Avonmouth, Shirehampton, Westbury and Horfield in the city and Henbury in Gloucestershire. This was prompted by a scheme to erect 500 houses in the neighbourhood of Avonmouth to accommodate some 2,000 workers who were expected to be employed at the three large factories in course of construction.

The first Vestry meeting of the newly formed parish of Avonmouth was held on 1 August. It was presided over by the curate in charge of

the parish because the Vicar, the Rev. Harold Gibson, was serving with the Forces in France. The meeting expressed thanks to Mr. Napier Miles who had given the land upon which St. Andrews church had been built; he had also provided the sum of £2,000 towards the endowment that made the creation of the parish possible.

At their meeting on 7 August the City Council approved a scheme to bring about a considerable enlargement of the city boundaries which would have involved an increase in population of 30,000 inhabitants. They proposed to include the whole of the parishes of Henbury, Filton and Brislington, the urban districts of Kingswood and Portishead, the urban parts of the parish of Mangotsfield and portions of the parishes of Stoke Gifford, Siston, Abbots Leigh and Easton in Gordano. The area of land they proposed to acquire was 17,795 acres, which, added to the city's existing area of 17,460 acres would have resulted in doubling the size of the city. In reply to a Parliamentary question, the President of the Local Government Board later confirmed that the city's proposals had been submitted to him but added that, unless there was fairly wide concurrence, the city should postpone action until after the conclusion of the war. In October the Council heard that the majority of neighbouring councils had declined even to discuss the matter and that there was likely to be strong opposition. They decided that it was inadvisable to proceed except in relation to Henbury in view of the developments at Avonmouth.

The funeral of Colonel Henry Bouchier Osborne Savile took place on 25 August. Born during the reign of George III, he served in the Royal Artillery and the Royal North Gloucestershire Militia. Colonel Savile was involved in the volunteer movement, he assisted in the formation of Bristol Rifle Corps and commanded the Artillery Volunteer Corps in 1859; he served as Sheriff in 1883/84, was a Justice of the Peace and a staunch champion of the evangelical church.

In September the City Council registered concern at the shortage of coal in the city which particularly affected the working classes who had little or no room to store supplies. They requested the Controller of Coal to cancel instructions to load wagons for despatch elsewhere carrying coal which properly belonged to the Bristol area.

At the same meeting the Health Committee reported on a request it had received from the Local Government Board for information about the provision of houses for the working classes. They stated that the 1901 census revealed a population of 329,086, that for 1911 was 357,059 and that the estimated current figure was 360,000. Since 1913 402 dwellings had been demolished because they were in an unfit condition. In the city it was thought that some 3,000 soldiers had married during the war and that most of their wives were living with parents. There was a prospect of 150 houses

being built at Avonmouth and the Sutton Trust planned to construct 240 at Brislington but not until after the war. The committee recommended that the Council should prepare a scheme to erect 2,000 workmen's dwellings after the war on the understanding that the Government would give financial assistance that was both satisfactory and substantial.

In October the award of the Victoria Cross to Lance Corporal Frederick G. Room was gazetted. He was born in St. George and was aged 22 at the time. The award was for gallantry whilst in charge of a party of stretcher-bearers, in the course of which his courage and fearlessness had saved the lives of many of his comrades.

In the same month six members of an Italian military mission were warmly received by the city. Led by the High Commissioner, Baron Mayor de Planchey, they travelled from Temple Meads along a route bedecked with flags of both nations, lunched with the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, saw an exhibition of Italian war films at the Triangle Picture House and visited the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company's factory.

The posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to 2nd Lieutenant Hardy Falconer Parsons of the Gloucestershire Regiment was gazetted on 17 October. The bombing post that he commanded was the subject of a strong night attack and Lieutenant Parsons held up the enemy single-handed until fatally wounded. He was the son of the Rev. J. Ash Parsons, the pastor of Old King Street Wesleyan Chapel, and before enlisting was a medical student at the University with the intention of becoming a medical missionary.

Following the report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases the Local Government Board required local authorities to prepare schemes of diagnosis and treatment. In October the Health Committee proposed a scheme that comprised six clinics per week (three each at Bristol Royal Infirmary and Bristol General Hospital) and that each hospital should provide two beds for in-patients. They also arranged with the University to undertake the necessary pathological tests. The neighbouring county councils agreed to contribute. In May the Education Committee had considered a letter from the National Women's Labour League suggesting that lessons on sex hygiene should be given in schools and resolved to take no action.

Towards the end of October there was a strike of employees of the Bristol Tramway Company arising out of attempts to obtain Trade Union recognition and a claim for increased wages and shorter working hours. Those involved included some taxi drivers and lady conductors although a number of employees did not join in. The strike lasted four days and was settled on terms that included an expression of willingness on the part of the company to receive officials of the London and Provincial

Vehicles Workers' Union on questions affecting employees in the traffic department.

In November the Council resolved that, owing to the high cost of living, income received by old age pensioners by way of special grants from Trade Unions, Friendly Societies and generous friends should not be taken into account in ascertaining their income when the result would be to affect the continued receipt of the weekly pension of 7s:6d.

King George V and Queen Mary came to Bristol on 8 November. In the morning they visited the National Shell Factory at St. Philips, Wills' Tobacco Factory at Ashton Gate and the Council House where they met the heads of many firms engaged in war work. In the afternoon the King held an investiture for war heroes on Durdham Down and the royal couple then went to Filton to inspect the British and Colonial Aeroplane Works.

At the end of the year local butchers became very concerned at the permitted retail price fixed by the Ministry Food. One claimed that he was buying mutton at 1s:6d per pound and had to sell it at 1s:3½d. The Bristol & District Master Butchers Association held a meeting at which they threatened to close their shops on Saturday 29 December. The Ministry issued improved minimum prices and the threatened closure did not take place.

On 24 December there was a concert at the Colston Hall to celebrate the election of Alderman Frank Sheppard as the city's first Labour Lord Mayor; it was organised by the Dockers Union and the Boot and Shoe Operatives Union. Mr. J.T. Osborne the secretary of the latter presented Alderman Sheppard with his robes of office and Ernest Bevin, on behalf of the dockers and in place of Ben Tillett MP, who was in France, presented Mrs. Sheppard with a tea and coffee service.

1918

In the New Year's Honours list a knighthood was awarded to the Lord Mayor, Dr. Barclay Baron.

On 6 January, following a royal proclamation requesting a day of intercession, there were services of prayer and thanksgiving. The Lord Mayor, Sheriff and Bishop were present at the Cathedral and at a united service at the Colston Hall.

The Bristol branch of the National Party were seeking to recruit members. One of their notices issued in January pointed out that the collapse of the country's Russian allies resulted in half a million Germans being freed to wage war against Britain and France. The party advocated the extension of conscription to Ireland and claimed that this would yield some 300,000 men.

The Education Committee had, once again, to consider the question of sex education. In January the Elementary Schools sub-committee discussed a letter from the Women's Co-operative Guild asking them to receive a deputation to discuss the teaching of sex hygiene in elementary schools; the committee declined to receive them.

On 6 February the Bristol, Kingswood and District Federated Boot Manufacturers Association held a complimentary dinner at the Grand Hotel for Alderman Sheppard to mark his position as Lord Mayor. As it was a 'meatless day' the main course was a modest portion of fish.

On the following day several members of the Women's Land Army marched from Temple Meads Station to the Colston Hall led by the band of Colston's School. They wore their serviceable uniform of plain smocks, strong boots, breeches and leggings and many of them carried their tools of trade 'which indicated that they worked as cow women, carters, field and forestry workers, hay balers and thatchers'. At the Colston Hall there was a gathering organised by the Somerset War Agricultural Committee where some of the marchers received awards for service from Lady Hylton and an appeal was made for more volunteers.

The City Council had received representations from undertakers and their employees, gravediggers and other citizens about the practice of allowing burials in the city's cemeteries on Sundays. At their March meeting they decided to accede to the requests thus offering a day of rest to the workers involved and their horses.

It was the responsibility of the police to inspect the registration certificates of male artistes appearing at the local theatres and music halls. A man and wife gymnastics display under the name of 'The Bells' was appearing at the Bristol Hippodrome and in March, doubtless as a result of this activity, the husband was ordered to appear before the Bristol Tribunal to explain why he had not enlisted. He told the members that he was classed as Grade III and had tried to join up on four occasions but had been rejected. It appeared that he had fractured his skull after falling 75 feet whilst performing and in addition had a fractured ankle, a loose cartilage, flat feet and was blind in one eye. He was granted six months' temporary exemption.

During the spring offensive Captain Manley Angell James, a son of Dr. Angell James of Bishopston, gained the Victoria Cross for his courage and magnificent example. He led his company of the Gloucestershire Regiment whilst wounded and his actions enabled the battalion to be withdrawn before being completely cut off.

On 7 May Lady Wemys opened a new Sailors' Rest on Broad Quay. The premises comprised a seventeenth century house and was modelled under the direction of La Trobe and Weston, architects. On the following

Saturday a meeting to celebrate the event and to pay tribute to the British and Foreign Sailors' Society was held at the Colston Hall.

Following their decision of the previous September, the May meeting of the Council considered a plan to purchase, at the end of the war, 168 acres (at Fishponds, St. George, Bedminster and Horfield) for the erection of 2,000 houses; the price of the land was £27,981. Owing to the cessation of building during the war it was possible to acquire land on favourable terms. They also agreed to arrange to fund the purchase of a further 582 acres. One member considered that the plan was not sufficiently ambitious and that they should aim at providing 5,000 houses, commenting that Bradford had a similar scheme for 10,000 houses. Although the scheme would not be activated until the end of the war, the council nevertheless appointed an architect, C.F.W. Dening, to assist the City Engineer in the work of laying out the estates. At their July meeting the Council approved a report recommending arrangements to purchase 531 acres at Horfield, Fishponds, Knowle and Shirehampton at the cost of £125,000; this was in addition to the 168 acres already acquired. The Council noted that Mr. Napier Miles intended to donate land at Shirehampton to the National Trust. They also decided that, if land occupied by Knowle Cricket Club was acquired, it would be retained as a recreation ground. Some unease was felt at the indefinite nature of central government's promise to assist and one member expressed the view that the land was sufficient for 8,400 houses that would cost some £4,000,000 to build. He proposed an amendment to refer the matter back but the amendment was lost and the report approved by an overwhelming majority.

At the end of May the Lord Mayor opened a hall, capable of seating 600 to 700, for the Dockers' Union. The hall was formerly a picture house situated in East Street, Bedminster, between the library and the police station. In the course of the ceremony Ben Tillett commented that it would enhance the union's educational work and would foster good companionship and a feeling of unity. Ernest Bevin said he considered it to be a good investment and that he would like to see a large trade union hall in the centre of the city.

In May Councillor Robinson drew the attention of the Watch Committee to the fact that Bristol had no protection against enemy air raids despite the presence of a number of munitions factories and the use being made of Avonmouth Docks. An approach to the War Office prompted the response that the city's distance from German air bases made an attack unlikely, but the committee was not satisfied and pressed the point, observing that there were now larger aircraft having a bigger range. The military authorities were still not responsive but did point out

that the local volunteer battalions might be able to help. In August the members were no doubt relieved to learn that the local volunteers were prepared to make their machine guns available for the city's defence and steps were taken to identify sites for the guns.

On 3 June the inaugural meeting of Bristol Women's Citizens Association was held. The Sheriff, Percy Steadman, presided and a large gathering was addressed by Mrs. Olgivie Gordon, the President of the National Union of Women Workers and by Miss E.H. Smith, the President of the Bristol branch. The object of the association was to bring together associations and individuals on a non-political and non-religious basis to foster a sense of citizenship in women and to prove that they were capable of using their new power to vote wisely.

In June the Bristol Tribunal heard an application by the Town Clerk to exempt the Tolzey Court clerk from military service; he was a married man aged 37 and passed as Grade I. It was said that if the Tolzey Court became inoperative, litigants would be forced to use the County Court where the procedure was not as speedy. The application was refused with leave to appeal to the Central Tribunal.

In the same month John Henry Brown, a carpenter employed by Cowlin & Son, appeared before the magistrates charged with self-mutilation to evade military service. He had bored two holes in a piece of wood big enough to take two fingers and then inserted the wood in a band saw thus cutting off the ends of the fingers up to the second joint. The bench fined him £10 or 61 days' imprisonment.

Earlier in year the Sanitary Committee had decided that no streetlights should be illuminated between 15 May and 13 August; this was as a result of a national appeal for economy and to conserve stocks of coal; it resulted in a saving of £3,500. The Bristol branch of the National Society of Public Morals complained to the Council that the cessation of street lighting was prejudicial to public morality and a deputation comprising Lady Barclay Baron, Miss White and Canon Talbot, made representations to the committee. The complaint was considered at the June meeting of the Sanitary Committee who heard a report from the Chief Constable to the effect that, after careful observation, there had been no increase in immorality from that cause and that there had been no complaints that it had been above normal. They decided that the disuse of street lamps should continue. In June the Watch Committee considered a letter from the Baptist Women's League concerning films currently being shown and the posters advertising them; they expressed the view that they had a demoralising effect especially on the young and urged more rigid censorship. In September the same committee had before it a letter from the Bristol Circuit of the Wesleyan Methodist

Church calling attention to the unseemly behaviour of young people in the streets and parks and the increase of juvenile smoking and bad language. Both letters were referred to the Chief Constable.

At the end of June a fully equipped motor ambulance and a cheque for £100 was presented by the employees of W.D. & H.O. Wills to the local branch of the Red Cross Society. The donation was to be used to send parcels to local prisoners of war. The branch was at that time sending out parcels at the rate of £28,000 per annum.

American Independence Day was celebrated in the city. There were services at the Cathedral and the Pro-cathedral and a luncheon for American troops at the Drill Hall. They then marched, together with a very large contingent of past and present British fighting forces, to the Downs where they had tea at the Zoological Gardens. The procession was three miles long and was watched by large crowds.

At the end of July a contingent of American troops commanded by General McNair passed through the city. They marched to the music of the Gloucestershire Regimental band to the Art Gallery where there was a civic reception. They were welcomed by the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries including the American Vice-Consul and were given light refreshments, a packet of Carsons chocolates, cigarettes provided by W.D. & H.O. Wills, a handbook containing useful information and a message from His Majesty. In August some American troops stationed at Yate were entertained at Kingswood YMCA and played a game of baseball on the Chequers ground.

In August Kingswood District Council heard a report that there had been no illegitimate births during the previous month and that there had only been three in the Warmley Union area. A member commented that this showed that the rumours about the conduct of young people and soldiers in the Kingswood area were baseless.

Admiral Close died at Clifton on 25 August. He was the son of Dean Close of Cheltenham and had entered the Royal Navy in 1842 at the age of 12. He was promoted Lieutenant following service against Chinese pirates and became an admiral in 1877. In retirement he interested himself in the local Naval Volunteers of which he was honorary Commander.

In September a new ambulance that had cost £400 was presented to Kingswood St. John's Ambulance detachment by a committee of local residents.

In the previous year the Education Committee's Elementary Schools sub-committee had supported a letter from Swansea Council recommending the introduction of decimalization. They revisited the subject at their September meeting and resolved that it was 'desirable

that a system of decimal coinage and metric weights should be adopted at the earliest opportunity' and that a copy of the resolution should be sent to the Board of Education, the Board of Trade and local Members of Parliament. The full committee adopted their proposal in the same month.

The Victoria Cross was awarded to Lt. Col. Daniel Burges, son of Daniel Burges, a former Town Clerk, for his actions at Jumeaux on 18 September. Whilst in command of a battalion of the South Wales Borderers he maintained direction with great skill and, though wounded, he kept moving amongst his men encouraging and assisting them.

Alderman Charles James Lowe died on 7 October in his 68th year. He was connected with Bryant, Perry & Lowe, stockbrokers, and was Secretary of Bristol, West of England & South Wales Permanent Building Society. He started in local government as a member of the Horfield Local Board and Horfield Urban District Council until the area was absorbed into the city in 1899. He became a city councillor in 1902 and served as Lord Mayor in 1912/13.

In October it was announced that arrangements had been made to unite the business interests of Cadbury Bros. Ltd and J.S. Fry & Sons Ltd. There was to be a holding company to acquire the ordinary shares of Cadbury and the deferred ordinary shares of Fry but each company intended to carry on business under their own names and under the existing management.

Sir Ernest Fry died at the end of October. He was born in Bristol in 1827 and was the second of Joseph Fry's three sons. He was called to the bar in 1854, took silk in 1869, and became a judge in the Chancery Division in 1877 and a Lord Justice of Appeal in 1883. He retired from the bench in 1892.

There was a serious outbreak of influenza in October and Bristol's schools were closed from 22 October until 18 November. Both the Education Committee and the Watch Committee asked cinema proprietors not to admit children during the period of school closure. In his report at the end of the year the Medical Officer of Health reported that 1050 people had died from influenza during 1918.

The armistice was signed on 11 November and this prompted jubilant scenes in the crowded Bristol streets. The claims of business were forgotten and there were several public meetings addressed by the Bishop and Alderman Sheppard as the newly elected Lord Mayor. The work of the Bristol Tribunal ceased; they had had 821 sittings and dealt with 41,000 cases representing 22,000 individual men of which 17,000 had been refused exemption. On 20 November there was a service of thanksgiving in the Cathedral and a well attended meeting in the Colston Hall.

At the November meeting of the Council there was an animated discussion on the question of providing a second living room or parlour in the houses they were proposing to build. One member proposed that all houses should have parlours, but an amendment to his proposal to the effect that the question should be left in the hands of the relevant committee was carried by 22 votes to 11. It was hoped that the city could provide 60% of 'parlour' houses.

In December a German submarine, U86, was on display in the city docks near to the Co-operative building. The vessel's tonnage was 800 and its beam 25 to 30 feet. There was a nominal charge to board her.

In December Motor Despatch Driver Clement Fursdon of Westbury spoke to the Bristol Rotary Club about his experiences as a prisoner of war; He had been captured at Mons in August 1914 and his ordeal lasted 4½ years.

There was a meeting of the Council in December to consider a proposal to appoint David Lloyd George, Admiral Beatty and Sir Douglas Haig as honorary freemen. The proposal was accepted although some Labour members voted against Lloyd George.

At the end of the year a general election was held and the local results were:

Bristol Central

T.W.H. Inskip (Co.L)	12232
Ernest Bevin (Labour)	<u>7137</u>
	<u>5095</u>

Bristol North

Edwin Stanley Gange (CoL)	11400
J. Kaylor (Lab)	5007
E.W. Petter (NP)	<u>2520</u>
	<u>6393</u>

Bristol West

G.A. Gibbs (CoC)	Unopposed
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Bristol East

George Bryant Britton (CoL)	9434
Luke Bateman (Lab)	8135
Sir C. Hobhouse (L)	<u>1447</u>
	<u>1299</u>

Bristol South

Sir William Howell Davies (CoL)	13761
T.C. Lewis (Lab)	<u>6409</u>
	<u>7352</u>

Edward Robert Matthews died in January aged 68. He was the great-grandson of Robert Matthews, the publisher of Matthews' Directory in 1793. After working in the Birmingham Library he was appointed librarian to Bristol Museum and Art Gallery in 1883 and in 1893 he became the City Librarian in succession to John Taylor. In the following month Lancelot Acland Taylor (Matthews's deputy) was appointed as his successor.

Throughout the war the site of the exhibition at Ashton Gate (known as 'The White City') was used as a military camp. On 10 January 100 men of the Royal Engineers marched from the camp to seek an interview with the Lord Mayor. Many of them had jobs to go to and they had been promised demobilisation but had not been released. The Lord Mayor said that he would make representations on their behalf.

At their January meeting the Sanitary Committee noted that a total of £19,470 had been paid to men serving with the forces. The payments would cease as the men were demobilised and would be absorbed by the re-employment of the 350 men still then serving.

At the same meeting the Sanitary Committee heard that the resumption of street lighting would involve an additional annual expenditure of £35,000.

The British American Tobacco Company (one third of which was owned by the Imperial Tobacco Company) had been created in 1902 to operate in all parts of the world outside the United States and Great Britain and Ireland. During the war BAT had taken over W.D. & H.O. Wills's factory at Ashton Gate because it had to double its factory accommodation in order to supply tobacco and cigarettes to the troops. In March the factory was returned to Wills.

In March it was announced that Mr. H.H. Wills had acquired Cote House, Westbury-on-Trym, said to be a Jacobean house, as a home for incurables.

In the same month the Corporation appointed a special committee to consider what public works could be put in hand in order to provide jobs for unemployed ex-servicemen. The committee reported in May that they had identified work at Portishead that would engage 100 men for six months and that there was also an opportunity at Brandon Hill where trenches dug during the war had to be reinstated and that this would occupy 20 men for five weeks. They also noted that work on the proposed council houses would be starting in the near future and that this would provide work for 150 men.

In April the City Council decided to acquire the Colston Hall from the 60 shareholders who had hitherto run it on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the citizens. The agreed purchase price was £65,000 and it was said that there would be a saving for the city because the new municipal buildings that were being planned for College Green would not have to make provision for a concert hall. The organ was also to be included in the sale; this had the support of the Wills family who had provided it. Not every-one supported the proposal; Alderman Dyer maintained that it would be better to retain the money and use it to provide a new hall in the civic buildings.

In April James Redman, a docker, appeared before the magistrates charged with stealing two apples valued at 3d; it was his first offence. The chairman of the bench, Sir Frank Wills, commented that they were determined to stop pilfering at the docks and he was sentenced to one month's hard labour. His colleagues at Avonmouth regarded this as a vindictive sentence and 3,000 of them walked out. The Lord Mayor received a deputation and he advised them that Redman could appeal to the Quarter Sessions. He did so and the Recorder reduced the term of imprisonment to two days (which he had already served) and bound him over to be of good behaviour.

On 18 April a large group of unemployed ex-soldiers marched to the Council House and a deputation saw the Lord Mayor. They suggested that the Corporation should prepare a scheme for repairing and relaying roads as soon as possible, that employers should be asked to release married women employees who were supported by their husbands, that all female labour that had replaced enlisted men should be replaced by discharged soldiers and that the government should be urged to increase the unemployment allowance. The Lord Mayor acknowledged that there were 5,000 discharged men in the city and that they should make their own representations direct to employers. He added that civic work had to be approved by Government departments and that they moved slowly.

In May the wartime ban on civilian flying was lifted and on 1 May a new route from Bristol, Filton to London, Hounslow was inaugurated. A special edition of the *Western Daily Press* was flown to London in a biplane adapted from the Bristol Fighter piloted by Lieut. Ewins, RAF carrying, as a passenger, Herbert J. Thomas, director and works manager of the British & Colonial Aircraft Company. The journey took 58 minutes and 5 seconds.

Later in the month 700 employees of W.D. & H.O. Wills were welcomed back from the services and treated to a meat tea and concert.

At their May meeting the Education Committee considered an application for reinstatement by Mr. A.E. Newman. He had been an

assistant teacher since 1912 and in 1916 appealed against being conscripted. The Tribunal accepted his conscientious convictions as genuine and ordered him to undertake alternative service of national importance. He declined to do so as he considered that teaching was work of national importance and had been in prison since September 1916. The committee refused to reinstate him by 20 votes to 2. The matter was raised before the full council in June but they overwhelmingly supported the Education Committee's decision.

At the Council's May meeting they considered and approved a proposal from Councillor T.J. Lennard that they should acquire a site at College Green for the future erection of municipal buildings.

Also in May the Merchant Venturers decided to discontinue their secondary school and the Corporation proposed to provide an additional school to replace it. They acquired a site at Tower House, Cotham for this purpose.

On 4 June the President of the Local Government Board, Dr. C. Addison, MP, cut the first sod for the housing development at Sea Mills and the Lady Mayoress planted a commemorative oak tree. The Prince of Wales had been invited but had to decline owing to other engagements. The ceremony was followed by a meeting at the Colston Hall at which the Lord Mayor said that the city was aiming to provide 5,000 houses and that contracts had been made to purchase 780 acres. The total outlay was estimated at £3,070,964 and the annual charge would be £138,812 of which the Government would contribute the whole except for the product of a 1d rate (estimated at about £7,000 per annum). The Housing Extension and Planning Committee (which had the responsibility for the new housing) announced in June that they were planning to hold a public competition for designs and were proposing to award premiums of £150 each to the architects submitting the 12 best sets of plans. 39 sets of plans were submitted and, of these, the assessors only considered 10 to be good enough to qualify for a premium. The plans were exhibited publicly at the Royal West of England; six of the architects were appointed to an advisory board and the committee selected some of the plans to be erected as experimental houses. The committee had the benefit of the advice of a Women's Advisory Committee who had had a private view of the plans. The committee were anxious to complete the work as soon as possible and devised an incentive scheme whereby they would agree a fixed price for each house with the builder and any difference between the builder's profit and the fixed price would be divided equally between the employer and the workmen. The proposal was considered by the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives and declined by them.

Sir Barclay Baron died on 7 June. He became a councillor in 1913 and served as Lord Mayor in 1915/6 and 1916/7. He was prominent in the recruiting campaign and when wounded troops started to arrive in the city he met most of the ambulance trains and took a personal interest in the affairs of the wounded troops. He was a Devonian but moved to Bristol in 1883 after studying medicine at Edinburgh, Berlin, Strasbourg and Vienna; he was director of the department for the treatment of nose and throat at Bristol General Hospital for 18 years.

In June the first non-stop trans-Atlantic flight by Alcock and Brown took place. The Vickers Vimy flew from Newfoundland to County Galway in 16 hours and 12 minutes. The pilot, Captain John Alcock, lived at Staple Hill with Mr. S.L. Bailey of Douglas Motors. Alcock and Bailey were friends in connection with motor racing and Mr. Bailey acted as business manager for the flight.

The Peace Treaty was signed at Versailles at the beginning of July and on the occasion church bells rang, streets were decorated and crowds gathered outside the newspaper offices. A committee to organise peace celebrations was formed and Samuel White of the Bristol Tramways Company guaranteed £4,000 of the estimated requirement of £10,000. Peace Day was celebrated on 19 July with a military procession following the customary route from Queen Square to Durdham Down. There was a tea and entertainment for veterans and the wounded at the Zoo and sports and refreshments for all ex-servicemen. There were bands playing in the parks and in the evening beacons were lit and rockets set off.

The King's Birthday Honours in August brought a knighthood for Alderman George Edward Davies who had served as Chairman of the National Registration Act (1915) Committee and the Corporation's Selection and Salaries Committees. He was a partner the firm of Champion & Davies, manufacturing confectioners.

Robert Page appeared before the magistrates in the middle of August. He had forced the front door at the house in Hampstead Road, Brislington belonging to Mr. Ford, a well-known market gardener. Page thought that the house was unoccupied but, on entering the kitchen, he encountered Mrs. Blanche Ford. 'My God, missus, I have made a mistake and come to the wrong house' he said to which she replied 'You have not, you are a burglar'. He made to leave but Mrs. Ford seized him by the collar and they struggled for 10 to 15 minutes; her cries brought help from the neighbours who fetched the police. He was imprisoned for a year.

Despite the fact that the war had ended British forces continued to be involved in Russia. Commander Claude Congreve Dobson gained the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry whilst in command of a coastal motor-boat flotilla at Kronstadt Harbour.

At the end of the month news was received of the exploits of Trooper Thorneycroft of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, aged 22, the son of a Bristol hotelkeeper. He was serving in Palestine and, when General Allenby's troops set off to pursue the fleeing Turks, Trooper Thorneycroft was left in sole charge of the town of Safed and 60 surrounding villages. He administered the area until he was relieved by Captain Harrington, the military governor of Tiberias, a month later. Captain Harrington reported 'I found him upholding the position with dignity. He was respected by the people, handled large sums of Turkish money and administered justice in a rough and ready manner as the situation required'. Trooper Thorneycroft was then granted a commission and remained in Safra in charge of the police.

In September the cruiser *Castor* and the destroyers *Whitely*, *Worsley*, *Winchester* and *Splendid* visited the city. 400 sailors were conveyed by train to Clifton Down Station and marched to the Council House where they were welcomed by the Lord Mayor and councillors.

Thomas Holmes Gore, the Clerk to the Justices, died on 28 September aged 83 years. He was Clerk to the Margate Justices from 1860 to 1863 and assistant clerk to the Lord Mayor of London until his appointment in Bristol in 1875.

The plans for a war memorial at Westbury-on-Trym provoked controversy in October. The proposal was for an obelisk and on the Sunday following the committee's decision the Rev. H.J. Wilkins, before starting his sermon, made a public appeal to the committee to reconsider their decision; he expounded upon the derivation of the word and opined that an obelisk was a heathen symbol. Mr. John Warr, a chorister, who had as usual read the lesson rose from his seat in the choir stalls and announced 'I protest against your statements made without information and knowledge and which ought not to be made in this building'. He then walked down the aisle and left the church.

The new Baptist College in Woodland Road was opened on 23 October, the ceremony being performed by Mr. Herbert Marnham, the President of the Baptist Union.

At their meeting at the end of October the Bristol Guardians considered the provision of medical facilities for people in their care and the future use of their buildings. The military authorities were about to give up Southmead and the Guardians planned to use the premises for all acute sick cases. Stapleton was to be used for all chronic and feeble cases and all imbeciles and Eastville for all healthy adults and children.

Municipal elections in 17 wards were held in November and the results were:

Liberals	35 (previously 41)
Conservatives	38 (previously 40)
Labour	15 (previously 8)
Independents	3 (previously 3)
Ex-service	1 (previously nil)

At the beginning of November the directors of Bristol Tramway Company held a meeting for employees. Mr. Samuel White announced that when the war started they had 3410 employees of whom 1485 (including 670 trained drivers) joined up. 1107 men had been demobilised and had been reinstated as the company had promised. 84 men had been killed in action and 30 had died of their wounds. The amount paid to dependants of serving men amounted to £63,840. The company now employed 230 disabled men. The pension fund maintained by the company, and to which it subscribed £1,500 per annum, had earned an income of £16,000 since its inception of which £4,000 had been expended in pensions. To qualify for a pension an employee had to serve for 25 years and attain the age of 65 although the company intended to lower the qualifying age to 60.

On 19 December a tank was presented to the city in memory of the war work done and the efforts in raising £14,000,000 for War Loan. The ceremony took place at the top of Blackboy Hill and the tank, which bore an inscribed brass plate, was presented by Captain Farrar MC to Mr. J.W.S. Clough, the Chairman of the War Savings Committee, who handed it over to the Lord Mayor.

Lord Mayors and Sheriffs

1914/5	John Swaish	John Stroud Gwyer William Stroud
1915/6	Dr. Barclay Josiah Baron	Herbert Edwin Chattock
1916/7	Dr. Barclay Josiah Baron	Lieut-Col Joseph Beaumont Butler (until May 1917 when he went to France on active service) Herbert Edwin Chattock (from May 1917)
1917/8	Frank Sheppard	Percy Steadman
1918/9	Henry William Twiggs	Ivie Mackie Dunlop
1919/20	James Thomas Francombe	William Alfred Titley.

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